

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 2401

EXDIS

FOR SECRETARY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: SHUM, PA, OAS
SUBJECT: PARAGUAY AND IAHRC:
SECRETARY'S BILATERAL WITH FONMIN NOGUES AT OASGA

A) ASUNCION 2280 B) STATE 135207

SUMMARY: NOGUES, ALTHOUGH MOST FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARDS
IAHRC VISIT DOES NOT HAVE AUTHORITY TO MAKE FINAL BINDING
DECISION AT GRENADA. SECRETARY'S BILATERAL OUTLINING
IMPORTANCE TO PARAGUAY AND IN FACT TO ENTIRE SOUTHERN
CONE TO PERMIT IAHRC TO COME WILL BE CRUCIAL IN OBTAINING
FAVORABLE DECISION FROM PRESIDENT STROESSNER. END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN MINISTER NOGUES RECEIVED FINAL INSTRUCTIONS
FROM PRESIDENT STROESSNER JUNE 10. HE CALLED ME LAST NIGHT
TO GIVE ME A RUNDOWN. PRESIDNE HAD TOLD HIM THAT IN
PRINCIPLE HE FAVERED PERMITTING IAHRC VISIT BUT CONTINUED
TO WORRY THAT NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES WOULD TAKE OFFENSE.
HE ASKED NOGUES TO FIRST TALK TO AGUILER TO GET THE LEAST
OBJECTIONABLE TEAM LINED UP AND THEN TO SECRETARY VANCE
AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN TO TAKE THE TEMPERATURE AS
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TO JUST HOW BADLY USG WANTED PERMISSION FOR THE VIST TO BE
GRANTED. NOGUES SAID HE HOPED SECRETARY AND TODMAN WOULD
MAKE CONVINCING ARGUMENTS. NOGUES IS WELL DISPOED TO THE
VISIT AND CERTAIN THAT PERMISSION WILL BE GRANTED BY CONTRARY
TO WHAT LOPEZ ESCOBAR TOLD LUERS (REF B) HE DOES NOT REPEAT
NOT HAVE AUTHORITY TO MAKE FINAL DECISION IN GRENADA. AS
CUSTOMARY IN PARAGUAY THERE IS ONLY ONE MAN WHO MAKES FINAL

DECISIONES AND THAT IS THE PRESIDENT.

2. I RECOMMEND THAT SECRETARY AND TODMAN REITERATE THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE FOR PARAGUAY AND THE ENTIRE SOUTHERN CONE THAT GOP ERMIT IAHRC VISIT. THIS SHOW OF FLEXIBILITY BY PARAGUAY WOULD GIVE CREDENCE TO THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION THAT WE CAN MAKE MORE PROGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES BY PERSUASION THAN BY SANCTIONS. INFLEXIBILITY AS SHOWN BY PARAGUAY'S NEIGHBOURS ONLY BEGETS INFLEXIBILITY BY THE US CONGRESS AND RESULTS IN SANCTIONS. THE MERE FACT THAT PARAGUAY IS FAVORABLY CONSIDERING IAHRC VISIT ENABLED PRESIDENT CARTER TO SWING VOTES TO BLOCK AN ATTEMPT TO PROHIBIT TRAINING OF ARGENTINE MILITARY. (I SHOWED NOGUES THE JACK ANDERSON COLUMN IN THE JUNE 3 WASHINGTON POST.) MOREOVER, PARAGUAY AND ITS NEIGHBORS, ESPECIALLY BRAZIL, HAVE BEEN TRADITIONAL FRIENDS OF US AND VICE VERSA AND IT IS EVERYONE'S GOAL TO SEEK ACCOMMODATIONS AND NOT SANCTIONS. MOST IMPORTANT FOR USG IS TO CREATE THE RIGHT CLIMATE TO REALLY ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOUTHERN CONE. IAHRC WILL NOT COME TO CONDEMN AND HUMILIATE GOP BUT TO POINT TO WAYS TO IMPROVE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. PARAGUAY NEED NOT FEEL PRESSURED BY AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AND CAN MAKE RECOMMENDED CORRECTIONS WITHOUT ENDANGERING NATIONAL SECURITY. GOP'S ACTION WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR ITS NEIGHBORS TO BREAK OUT FROM INFLEXIBLE PATTERN AND AS A RESULT BOTH HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS AND BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE US CAN BE IMPROVED IN SOUTHERN CONE. PARAGUAY CAN AND SHOULD BE LEADER BECAUSE BRAZIL, URUGUAY, ARGENTINA, AND CHILE HAD EITHER MANDATORY SANCTIONS IMPOSED ON THEM BY CONGRESS OR VOLUNTARILY REJECTED

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US ASSISTANCE. PARAGUAY SO FAR IS UNTainted BY ANY CONGRESSIONAL ACTION AND CAN LEAD THE WAY FOR ALL ITS NEIGHBORS BY DEMONSTRATING THAT IT CAN NEGOTIATE POSITIVELY WITH THE IAHRC WITHOUT ANY LOSS OF SOVEREIGNTY.

3. NOGUES IS FAMILIAR WITH THESE ARGUMENTS AND HAS BOUGHT THEM. YOU MIGHT HAVE BETTER ONES. IF SO, PLEASE USE THEM. THE MAIN POINT IS THAT HE MUST RETURN FROM GRENADA AND TELL PRESIDENT STROESSNER THAT SECRETARY VANCE SPEAKING FOR PRESIDENT CARTER HAD RAISED THESE ISSUES CONVINCINGLY AND THAT HE, NOGUES, RECOMMENDS THAT PRESIDENT STROESSNER APPROVE IMMEDIATELY A VISIT FROM IAHRC.

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